

## **Open Letter to Valerie Amos, Director of SOAS, re SOAS Library**

I write as President of the African Studies Association of the UK to express our grave concerns about proposed cuts to SOAS library. At our Council meeting of 14th December 2018, we resolved to communicate these concerns to you in the strongest terms.

We understand that the proposed budget cuts are in the region of £650,000 annually and that this will result in the loss of 25% of library staff, including vital subject specialists and front-line roles. We believe that targeting a unique and specialist library collection of materials from Africa, Asia and the Middle East cannot be an acceptable approach.

SOAS Library is recognised as one of five UK National Research Libraries. In this capacity, it receives a grant roughly equivalent to the amount being slated for cuts. The proposed cuts threaten to undermine the value of the collections to students and researchers as well as to the institution itself. We believe this is a decision that will be regretted in the long-term.

We join with others to ask you to explore other options to ensure the long-term maintenance of the library at current levels.

Whilst SOAS Library plays a vital role for its own students and researchers and others based in London, it also occupies a national position as the custodian of materials from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including in African languages. These are valued by researchers from around the world. This is evidenced by the deep concerns to the proposed cuts that have been expressed both nationally and internationally.

We urge you to recall the historical role and future responsibilities of SOAS and urgently to reconsider the proposed cuts.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Ambreena Manji, President, ASAUK, on behalf of Council.

Though the consultation period is over, please sign the petition at: <https://tinyurl.com/SaveSOASLibrary> and follow @SaveSOASLibrary on Twitter.

## **Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the ASUK, held at the University of Birmingham, 13th September 2018**

**1. Members Present:** Reginald Cline Cole, Carli Coetzee, James Currey, Helen Dancer, Rachael Dianga, Felicia Ezeugwu, Toby Green, Kershin Hacker, Simon Heap, Vincent Hiribarren, Michael Kargo, Maria T.O. Keke, Madhu Krishnan, Robin Law, Benjamin Lawrence, Ambreena Manji, Josephine Mokwunyei, Nici Nelson, Insa Nolte, Nikenna Onwhegbuna, Derek Peterson, Natalie Powell, Sharifa Sekalala, Carol Thompson, Ola Uduku, Nick Westcott, Tunde Zack Williams and Yetunde Zaid.

**2. Apologies:** Max Bolt, Mathew Davies, Lucy McCann, Zoe Marks, Phia Steyn and Njoki Wamai.

### **3. Minutes of 54th ASUK AGM, SOAS, London, 23rd October 2017**

These were recorded in the *ASUK Newsletter* of January 2018 and approved by the AGM.

### **4. Matters Arising**

None.

### **5. President's Report (Dr Insa Nolte)**

This year was focused on the preparation for the 27th biennial conference of the African Studies Association of the UK at the University of Birmingham on 11-13th September 2018. Professor Grace Musila from the University of the Witwatersrand gave the conference keynote address following a formal opening by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor Sir David Eastwood. At the conference dinner on 12th September 2018, the Audrey Richards Prize for the best dissertation in African Studies 2016-17, the Fage and Oliver Prize for the best monograph in African Studies published or distributed in the UK in 2016-17, and the Distinguished Africanist awards for 2017 and 2018 were awarded. Following the AGM, the outgoing President Insa Nolte will give the Presidential Address.

With over 800 delegates and 15 exhibitors, contributing to 40 streams and 166 panels, 16 roundtables, and 7 book launches, this was the Association's largest conference yet.

In order to support the organization of the conference, Elisa Tuijnder was employed as our administrator until December 2018. A conference organizing committee made decisions about bursaries and abstracts outside of pre-organised streams and panels.

The conference organisers advertised, awarded, and administered over 50 conference bursaries for African scholars, including 19 bursaries funded by the ASUK and the College of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham, 13 Visiting Fellowships from the Cadbury endowment also at the University of

Birmingham, 16 bursaries by the Guggenheim Foundation, and 4 bursaries by the British Academy. They also supported additional bursary processes funded by the Universities of Cardiff and Warwick and by the International African Institute where required. The conference organisers also gratefully recognize the significant contributions of material and other resources by many other contributors to the conference's bursary programme.

The Association worked closely with the University of Birmingham to provide visa invitations at an early stage in the process. After an initial delay, the University provided 187 invitation letters for visa purposes. Invitations were provided to all accepted delegates who requested them, and GWF numbers of delegates were forwarded to the relevant Embassies and High Commissions by the President. If requested, the President, together with the Director of the Royal African Society, challenged all visa rejections received until ten working days before the conference and were thus able to secure four reversals. Unfortunately, by the time of the conference there were nonetheless 14 visa refusals.

A conference evaluation – which includes an evaluation of the experiences of African scholars with the UK visa process – is planned following the conference and will be made available to the membership and the wider public through the ASAUK.

### **Research Excellence Framework 2021**

Following the ASAUK's participation in the HEFCE consultation on Lord Stern's independent review of the Research Excellence Framework, the ASAUK nominated UK-based Africanists for sub-panels 13 Architecture, Built Environment, Planning, 19 Politics and International Relation, 25 Area Studies, 26 Modern Languages and Linguistics, 28 History, and 33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies.

### **Visas for African academics**

In order to highlight the impact of visa refusals both on individual research careers and the integrity of UK-based knowledge production about Africa, the ASAUK continues to document cases of refusal, which is shared with stakeholders including the Royal African Society and the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Africa.

### **Relationship to Royal African Society**

The ASAUK is grateful for advice on financial and visa issues by Dr Nicholas Westcott, the Director of the Royal African Society, and advice and administrative support by other RAS staff including Sheila Ruiz and Lizzie Orekoya, who doubles as the ASAUK's financial secretary. The Association records its appreciation of the close and productive relationship with the Royal African Society.

### **Other engagements**

In addition, the Association has continued to pursue its core activities, in particular the organization of four Writing Workshops for African scholars and the prizes awarded at the ASAUK 2018 conference. These are covered by Reports by the Honorary Secretary and the Project Officers.

The ASAUK has also engaged with general issues of concern to Africanists in the UK and their partners and collaborators in Africa and beyond, including broader international collaboration with other Africanist organisations and the Global Challenges Research Fund.

In addition to the Newsletter, email, and the Association's website (<http://www.asauk.net>), the ASAUK also relies increasingly on social media and especially Twitter to reach its membership (@ASAUK\_News). The Association records its thanks to Dr Simon Heap for producing the Newsletter, to Dr David Kerr and Dr Poppy Cullen for managing the Website, and to Dr Rebecca Jones, Elisa Tuijnder and Maud van Merrienboer (ERASMUS intern) for managing the Twitter account which now has 1,342 followers.

### **Thanks**

The Association records its thanks to a very active Council and a committed membership, which enabled a high level of activity. It is also grateful to the Royal African Society, the University of Birmingham, and Africanist colleagues from around the world for their help in organising the ASAUK 2018 conference. Thanks are also due to conference organiser Elisa Tuijnder, later joined by Maud van Merrienboer, and the many professional colleagues in the College of Arts and Law who offered help when it was needed.

### **6. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Nici Nelson)**

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to maintain a good close working relationship with the Royal African Society (RAS). As in the past few years progress has been made in strengthening the organizational capacity of both societies.

#### **Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, 23rd October, 2017**

Dr 'Dan' (Duncan Mainye) Omanga of Moi University, Kenya was the MKZ Lecturer. His lecture was entitled, Social Media and Democracy in Africa: 'The Nakuru Analysts' WhatsApp group and the Evolution of Participation in County Governance in Kenya. It, and the reception that followed, was well attended and very well received.

#### **Birmingham Biennial Conference, 11-13th September, 2018**

With over 40 streams, 1,200 abstract submissions and a possible 800 delegates, the ASAUK conference promises to be the largest conference we have organised yet.

One issue raised after the previous ASAUK Conference at Cambridge concerned the fact that number of African scholars did not obtain visas in time to attend. In conjunction with the RAS, ASAUK is working to address this problem. As paid-up delegates in need of visas, with official visa invitation letters were provided by the University of Birmingham. In the case of visas not being granted, the conference fee was fully refunded upon receipt of the relevant documentation.

### **Small Grants for Conferences**

In non-biennial years the subvention is used to give small grants for UK-based conferences. In biennial years it is used to support travel grants to the Conference for African scholars. The Small Conference Grants are now funded by ASAUK.

### **Fage and Oliver Prize**

Instituted in 2016, this award is given biennially to the author of an outstanding or original scholarly work published on Africa during the preceding two years, as nominated by the publishers. The Committee to choose the winner was constituted by the ASAUK President. Professor Tunde Zack-Williams was chair of the Committee which consisted of Ola Uduku, Ray Bush, George Ogola, Diane Jeater, Teri Ochiagha and Toby Green. The ASAUK Council would like to thank the Committee for its hard work. The winner will be announced at the Conference.

### **Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize**

The Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize is given for the best dissertation successfully examined in the two year period between the Biennial conferences. The candidates must be nominated by their supervisors. The deadline for nomination was 31st March of the Biennial year. 24 dissertations were submitted to the committee chaired by Ambreena Manji. The Council would like to thank Ambreena Manji, Madhu Krishnan, Neil Carter and John Harrington for their hard work in this matter. The winners will be announced at the Conference

### **Teaching Fellowships**

It had been decided that for the 2018 Biennial Year, the Council would fund one fellowship for an early career, UK-based academic who had finished their doctoral degrees on an African topic in a British university in the Social Sciences or Humanities to work in an African university, hopefully also including a proposal running a Writing Workshop at that University. Unfortunately there were no appropriate applications, so the dedicated funds were used to cover the travel expenses of an African scholar who is attending the Biennial.

### **Statement of Principles for Publishing Approved by the American ASA**

The statement was agreed recently by the American ASA. The ASAUK Council has also agreed to this statement and would like to urge ASAUK members to consider them in any future negotiations with publishers.

## **Membership**

Membership numbers in all categories are showing a positive upwards trend as they always do in a Biennial Conference year. ASAUK individual UK/OS members went up from 170 last year to 213 this year. ASAUK Student members went up from 43 to 108. This is heartening after the slippage in membership for the last couple years. However we must build on this and not let those who have joined for the special conference deal let their membership lapse next year.

It would be *apropos* to repeat my plea, which has appeared in all my previous Honorary Secretary Reports. It would be useful if all members committed themselves to spreading the word. Those of the membership who are lecturing and supervising students are urged to make a concerted effort to recruit their post-graduate students as members to ASAUK/RAS. Academics could also ensure that any Africanist colleagues in their institutions (perhaps in non-African Studies departments) are aware of the many advantages of being a member of ASAUK/RAS. Members who have contact with Africanists outside of academia (such as working in NGOs or in business) might ensure that they know about the advantages of belonging to ASAUK/RAS. Copies of the new logo and advertising leaflet will be available at the AGM.

## **Council for the year 2017-2018**

### **Officers:**

President:	Insa Nolte
Vice-President:	Ambreena Manji
Honorary Secretary:	Nici Nelson
Honorary Treasurer:	Toby Green
Projects Officers:	George Ogola and Carli Coetzee
Newsletter Editor:	Simon Heap
Website Officer:	David Kerr and Poppy Cullen

**Co-opted Council Members:** James Currey, Carl Death (*African Affairs*), Stephanie Kitchen (IAI), Sheila Ruiz (RAS), Lucy McCann (SCOLMA)

### **Elected Council Members:**

#### **Retiring 2018**

*After First Term:* Reg Cline-Cole, Jose Lingna Fafafe, Zoe Marks, George Karekwaivanane, Mathew Davies, Paul Basu

*After Second Term:* Ola Oduku

#### **Retiring 2019**

*After First Term:* Rebecca Jones, Sharifah Sekalala, Louisa Egbunike, Cherry di Leonardi, Nic Cheeseman

*After Second Term:* Maxim Bolt

## **Retiring 2020**

*After First Term:* Ini Dele Adedeji, Toni Hasrup, Vincenet Hiribarren, Njoke Wamai

*After Second Term:* Stacey Hynd, Phila Steyn.

## **Newsletter**

Council should like to thank Simon for his sterling and tireless work as newsletter editor, and for maintaining its crucial role as a major organ of communication within the Africanist community. Enclosed in each *African Affairs* issue, Simon and Poppy Cullen ensure that the newsletter is uploaded onto our website.

## **Open Access**

The Council would like to thank Stephanie Kitchen, co-opted member of the Council and thank her for her consistently detailed and informative updates on Open Access issues for the council and the membership through the newsletter.

## **SCOLMA**

Lucy McCann has been the Council co-opted member from SCOLMA and has provided excellent detailed reports about SCOLMA activities of interest and relevance to ASAUK.

## **Relationship between ASAUK and RAS**

It is now an established rule that the ASAUK Officers and the RAS officers have a joint meeting at least once a year. In addition, the head of Programmes, Partnerships and Operations, Sheila Ruiz, is a co-opted member of the Council. The President of ASAUK is also committed to attending RAS Council meetings and the AGM.

For various complex reasons, the RAS is going through a period of reorganisation and retrenchment and this will necessitate an on-going re-examination and redefinition of the future relationship between RAS and ASAUK.

Richard Dowden, Executive Director of RAS for the last 15 years, stepped down last year and Nicholas Westcott became Executive Director. ASAUK would like to express their appreciation for his support for ASAUK

ASAUK would like to express its thanks to the Administrator, Lizzie Orekoya. The Officers of the Council appreciate the cheerful energy with she has successfully tackled the difficult job of learning to deal with the ASAUK finances, subscriptions and payments as well as maintaining the ASAUK e-mail list. This provides a convenient, fast and cheap means of communicating with the bulk of the membership. Members who change their e-mail addresses or who have not yet given us their new emails are urged to pass them on to Lizzie at: [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

## **7. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Toby Green)**

Toby reported that ASAUK is fortunate to have a comfortable surplus. The ASAUK has proceeded within its usual financial parameters this year. We have – as the Council had previously agreed – spent some of the surplus we have on various activities, including:

- bursaries for African scholars coming to ASAUK (self-funded, where previously the Royal African Society funded this).
- financing of the Fage & Oliver Prize for the Best book in African Studies, including funding of the travel of the prize winner.
- advertising a Teaching Fellowship, for which unfortunately there were no applications.
- work on developing a new lifetime membership category.

The financial position going forward is too early to tell. The surplus from the last ASAUK was all spent in financing the administration of this year's event; in buying a superior software system; and in supporting the institution's annual running costs. We hope that we will be able to spend any surplus this year in ensuring the success of the next conference in Cardiff in 2020.

The accounts for 2017 were submitted and approved

## **8. Election of Officers and Council Members**

The following slate of officers was approved:

Officers:

President:	Ambreena Manji
Vice-President:	Ola Uduku
Honorary Secretary:	Nici Nelson
Honorary Treasurer:	Toby Green
Projects Officers:	Carli Coetzee and Vincent Hiribarren
Newsletter Editor:	Simon Heap
Website Officers:	David Kerr and Poppy Cullen

The following slate of Council Members (for 2018 to 2021) was approved:

*First Term:* Lindiwe Dovey, Jonathan Fisher, Helene Neveu Kringelbach, Katharina Oke, and Nathan Richards.

*Second Term:* Paul Basu, Reg Cline Cole, and Jose Lingna Nafafe.

## **9. Writing Workshops and Teaching Fellowships**

The British Academy approached Ambreena Manji because they are interested in allocating more money for Writing Workshops for other Area Groups utilising the ASAUK model. They asked ASAUK to contribute to a conference on the issue. A one-day event was held in which they introduced the writing workshop model and there was an open call for applications.



An annual report was submitted to the British Academy and a Workshops FAQ section on the ASAUK website has been compiled to clarify application procedures: [www.asauk.net/asauk-writing-workshops](http://www.asauk.net/asauk-writing-workshops)

ASAUK made an application and was granted £20,000 for the 2018 cycle.

This year (at the time of writing) Carli Coetzee's workshop in Lagos and Ola Uduku's workshop in Accra have been successfully completed. Toby Green in Luanda and George Ogola in Kenya will be running workshops in the autumn.

It looks like we have saved enough money from the two last cycles to enhance future workshops. This is really excellent news, and shows how careful and frugal we are. Planning for 2019 is already underway. It is hoped there will be a workshop attached to African Studies of Africa conference and a workshop attached to Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies

We need individual academics to volunteer to organise workshops. The Council is putting out a call for new workshops and volunteers to organise them. Anyone interested is encouraged to access the ASAUK website cited above and then to contact the Workshop Officers of the ASAUK Council.

#### **10. ASAUK Newsletter**

Simon Heap reported that four quarterly issues were successfully published and uploaded. He made his annual plea for more copy, especially for recent doctorates as well as obituaries/appreciations of noted Africanists.

#### **11. RAS**

Nick Westcott reported that RAS is making progress in dealing with its financial problems though recovering solvency from Corporate members is proving difficult in the current financial climate. The Africa Writes Festival in June was very successful and the Africa Film Festival will hopefully also be successful and make enough to cover costs. During the Commonwealth Leaders Summit in London in April 2018 a good selection of African leaders were hosted by RAS (the finance minister of Ghana, HE Ken Ofori-Atta; the President of Malawi, HE Professor Mutharika; and a 'Women and Leadership Workshop hosted by Zeinab Badawi. RAS is compiling a list of African Studies Centres in the UK.

#### **12 SCOLMA**

Lucy McCann sent a report which covered SCOLMA's annual conference, 'Things Come Together?: Literary Archives from, in and for Africa', which took place on 10th September at the University of Birmingham; the 12th Annual Meeting of the European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS) in Vienna; *African Research and Documentation*, and tributes to two valued friends in recent months: Alan Bell, Librarian of Rhodes House Library from 1981 to 1993 and Tony Kirk-Greene, distinguished Africanist and honorary member of SCOLMA.

### 13 AOB

A motion was proposed and seconded that the ASAUK Council consider removing the requirement that council members be located in the UK. The council will consider various options and their implications. If accepted, this would require a change of the constitution at the next AGM.

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### **Nominations for Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer, 2019**

ASAUK seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecturer. The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be delivered at an ASAUK event in the autumn of 2019. The lectureship award's purpose is to encourage and support a young African scholar at an African university. The candidate should be at the beginning of their career in an African institution, and the content of the lecture should be non-scientific, non-technical and on an African subject. Zimbabwean, Ugandan, South African, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Kenyan and Sierra Leonean academics have delivered a diverse series of lectures in recent years.

The allowances include an economy return air fare to London, a prize of £500, accommodation and food expenses up to £500 and additionally, up to £250 for travel expenses to allow the lecturer to travel to other centres of African studies in the UK. The proposed lecturer should be nominated by an academic colleague; **no self-nominations please**. The nomination should include a concise statement of support from the academic nominator, a two page CV and a one page statement on the topic of the proposed lecture. Nominations by 30 March 2019 to Nici Nelson, Honorary Secretary, ASAUK: [n.nelson@gold.ac.uk](mailto:n.nelson@gold.ac.uk) and to Lizzie Orekoya, RAS/ASAUK Administrator: [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

### **Call for Applications for ASAUK Teaching Fellowship Scheme, 2019**

ASAUK is offering up to £9,000 to support a teaching fellowship in the Social Sciences or Humanities for a UK-based academic to work in an African university.

We are looking for applications from early career academics who have finished doctoral degrees on African topics in British universities in the past five years. The award is open to applicants of any nationality who have graduated from a British university. The award is designed to cover up to five months' subsistence with additional travel expenses provided for one international airfare.

Past fellows have included Dr Marie Gibert at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal, Dr Winnie Eckhardt at the National University of Rwanda, Dr Justina Dugbazah at the University of Ghana, Dr Machiko Tsubura at the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr Styliannos Moshona at the University of Lubumbashi, and Dr Thembi Mutch at Eduardo Mondlane University.

ASAUK has a flexible approach to the award and would be keen to support co-funding or exchange arrangements to sustain a longer placement period. In addition to their agreed teaching duties, the successful candidates are encouraged to organise an ASAUK Writing Workshop. If such a workshop is accepted for funding by ASAUK, fellows will be paid an additional sum to cover their additional time and administrative work.

In applying for a teaching fellowship, applicants should submit: a two page CV; a two page description of research plans, teaching experience, evidence of a partner in the host institution, teaching plans, and any co-funding or partnership arrangement; a letter of support from a sponsor in an African institution; a letter of support from a supervisor or other referee in the UK.

For a description of the Teaching Fellowship scheme and a report on a recent fellowship, check: [www.asauk.net/teaching.shtml](http://www.asauk.net/teaching.shtml) Applications by 30 March 2019 to Nici Nelson: [n.nelson@gold.ac.uk](mailto:n.nelson@gold.ac.uk) and Lizzie Orekoya: [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

### **Call for Applications for Small Grants for Conferences**

ASAUK administers a fund for Africa-related workshops and conferences to be held in the UK. The grants are up to £800. Past awards have contributed towards an African participant's travel costs or allowed the subsidised participation of a number of UK-based postgraduate students at an event.

Applications should include a short description of the intended event, the amount requested, and details of what the funds would be used for. All that ASAUK requires in return is that the organisers acknowledge ASAUK/RAS support in all their advertising and conference material and that they send the Council a short summary of the Conference afterwards for inclusion in the newsletter.

There is no closing date; applications will be discussed at the next ASAUK Council meeting following the receipt of the application. Please be aware that the next meetings of the ASAUK Council will be in May 2019 and October 2019. Applications by 30 March 2019 to Nici Nelson: [n.nelson@gold.ac.uk](mailto:n.nelson@gold.ac.uk) and Lizzie Orekoya: [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

### **ASAUK/RAS New Address**

Please note that the ASAUK/Royal African Society has moved offices to 21 Russell Square, SOAS, London, WC1B 5EA.

## **Conferences Future...**

UNITED KINGDOM

**'Decolonising African Studies: Questions and Dilemmas for Libraries, Archives and Collections', SCOLMA Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, Monday, 10 June 2019.** There has been an increasing call for the decolonisation of the curriculum across the disciplines in Northern institutions and elsewhere, notably recently South Africa. Librarians and archivists should be actively involved in this process but little attention has as yet been given to practical implications for libraries: acquisitions, cataloguing, resource allocation, information literacy, and the need for continuing professional development.

European institutions hold rich resources on Africa. How are these collections being used from the decolonisation point of view and what is research on these collections uncovering? How are libraries and archives seeking to open up their collections, how are they responding to the different demands and requirements of scholars and restitution activists and what sort of partnerships are they developing in African countries and elsewhere? In order to increase access to African-authored knowledge and perspectives how are libraries discovering what is being published in Africa and acquiring it? How are international journals being opened up to African academics? 350 word abstracts by 4 February 2019 to Sarah Rhodes: [sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

**'Africa: Connections and Disruptions', 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 2019), AEGIS Research Network of African Studies Centres in Europe, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 11–14 June 2019.** The conference brings together 1,500 leading researchers, policymakers, and leaders from across the world. There will also be a complementary series of artistic and cultural events, as well as various networking and capacity building events, including some particularly aimed at the next generation of African researchers.

Africa has witnessed substantial continuities, and acute ruptures. The continent is home to unchanging processes that have prevailed for millennia, and other movements that are in a state of flux. Africa's connections and disruptions are both enduring and novel. Moreover, the relative weight attached to each element, and the perceived relationship between them varies greatly depending on the positionality of the observer: from the colonial administrator, to the African farmer, to the entrepreneur, to the nurse, to the politician, to the preacher, to the civil servant, to the LGBTQ campaigner, to the aid worker.

A multiplicity of connections exist within, between, and beyond Africa. They can be fundamental or mundane, and shift in ways that are sudden and spectacular, or subtle and underwhelming. With connection comes a disruption; and with

disruption comes a connection. Studying these connections and disruptions invites a new way of seeing time and space as socially constructed and never uncontested. It also raises many questions: who or what is brought together or driven apart? What forces are driving the process? Why do tipping points emerge at particular junctures? What are the intended and unintended consequences of these pivotal moments?

Connections and disruptions form and inform debates at the African local and at the global level: they are addressed in the decolonization of the academy, in the questions over who is connected to which conversations and who is denied. They are evident in understandings of development, in the interference and the progress of North-South interventions, and in the 'new' global partnership for aid architecture, the emergence of different donors, in new sources of finance and in new means of transaction within and between locations.

The very idea of African boundaries as rigid state-defined constructs are being ruptured by new varieties of migration and mobilities across borders. Fresh social connections are being fashioned that link societies in new ways, often within existing infrastructures that are still very uneven across the continent. Conversely, fractures can be found in the social, in how society is organised and stratified, between societies and within social groups, in relationships. Relatedness is reflected in inclusion, exclusion, and contestations over health interventions, peace and security, and wider issues of rights and justice.

In the political realm, ruptures can be brought about in distinct events such as elections that usher in new administrations, but which can equally sustain enduring forms of governance and retain familiar personalities. Power connects and is connected. Power disrupts and is disrupted.

Reconfigured risks as well as opportunities are brought about by Africa's place in the global economy, through global value chains and consumer markets, and through new kinds of economic interaction between individuals, countries, regions, groups and continents. New connections and disruptions are emerging from existing patterns of livelihoods and social provisioning. New patterns of financialisation and financial inclusion have generated new types of economic and debt relations between Africa and the rest of the world, between citizen and subject. Some Africans are rising, while others are falling.

Connections and disruptions continuously highlight the ebbs and flows of African agency over the course of time. Order is unsettled and reconfigured, diffused and concentrated, by seen and unseen actors with known and unknown motivations. And the changes are witnessed, unnoticed or obscured in distinct events, specific struggles and social rearrangements – always with a historical context and often with some bearing on what is to come. Land disputes contest the past, for example, environmental crises deal with more than the present, and

climate change – perhaps the ultimate disruption – considers more than Africa’s future.

Cultural changes brought about by new ideas and experiences can both preserve and upset the traditional and the modern. Connections and disruptions are represented in language, in religion, performing arts and in literature, and in science and innovation. Information and communication technology has a hand in almost all these arenas. Africa connects, and is connected. Africa disrupts, and is disrupted.

The 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 2019) invites the submission of papers is now open till 21 January 2019. Read the conference theme, the information provided on the Call for Papers page, and then view the list of accepted panels. Papers must be proposed to a specific panel – there is no general 'catch-all' space. See: <https://ecasconference.org/2019/home>

#### INTERNATIONAL

**‘Religion, The State and Global Politics’, The 9th Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora (TOFAC 2019), Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria, 1–3 July 2019.** This conference will examine all the major narratives and theories of religion and politics produced by scholars and policy-makers over the years. It will encourage intellectual collaboration and production from within and/or focused on Africa and the African Diaspora. It will also contribute to contemporary discourse on religion, the State, and global politics, in order to illuminate Africa’s position in global religions, international policy, and national development and identity formation.

In the past, scholars of African religion and politics have engaged topics such as missionary activities, colonialism, and the spread of religion in Africa, as well as questions of cultural survival or defeat. In Western societies, policies and narratives regarding religion are often produced under the assumption that the Church and the State remain fundamentally and ideologically separate. Meanwhile, the connections between religion and state are becoming increasingly relevant worldwide. The global community is being confronted with violent terrorism, which is often tied to organised religion, wrongly or rightly by the media, the State, and international government and non-governmental organisations. Therefore, in the contemporary geopolitical landscape, state policymakers and scholars of politics, state formation, international relations, and globalisation can hardly ignore issues of religion, raising questions of religious freedom, tolerance, violence, and oppression. In light of the oversimplified, popular rhetoric surrounding religion and state policy, scholars and policymakers are tasked to think conceptually and empirically about the role of religion in the state and in international affairs.

Whereas Western scholarship has necessarily focused on the tensions between religions and secularisms at the State and international level, and on producing responses to religious terrorist movements such as ISIS and Boko Haram, there is also the need to explore alternative indigenous religions and spiritualities in Africa and the African Diaspora, to uncover local expressions and practices of religion in Africa and their impact on State policy, social organisation, and/or global connections, and to analyse recent developments by African states to foster or hamper religious movements and understandings in Africa. It is also useful to consider the Diasporic movement of religious ideas and practices across national boundaries.

The conference will attempt to push the boundaries of Western epistemology and engage African knowledge as a means of working through popular assumptions and contentious debates about the past, present, and future of Africa, African religions, spiritualities, and secularisms, and the connections between local, national, and global politics.

The organisers seek contributions on the following sub-themes: African and African diasporic religions; children in religion; Christian and Islamic bodies; colonialism and religion in Africa; comparative case studies in religion and the state; contemporary youth cultures; continuity, change, and survival strategies; ecumenical exchanges and interactions; expressions and practices of spirituality; global religions in local context/local religions in global context; globalisation and religion; history of religion in Africa and/or the African diaspora; Islamophobia; law and religions; law, politics, and religions; literary studies; local politics in global context/global politics in local context; masculine spiritualities/feminine spiritualities; methodological approaches to the study of religion in Africa; nationalism and religion in Africa; plural secularisms/plural religions; political theology; post colonialism and religion in Africa; private faiths, public religions; private politics, public policies; recent policy changes on religion in Africa, as well as religion and all of these topics as empowerment, ethics, gender, human rights, judicial systems, languages, literary expressions (poetry/prose/drama), migration in Africa and the African Diaspora, modernity, Nollywood, poverty, security issues, terrorism, multimedia (musicals, films, etc), social media; theories of the State in Africa, violent groups (ISIS, Boko Haram, The Lord's Resistance Army), world civilizations, architecture; youth culture, identities, schools and universities, race, conversion, culture, literature; religious, State, and global human rights movements; religious/political freedom in Africa; religious/political oppression in Africa; religious/political pacifism in Africa; religious/political violence in Africa; slavery, religion, and politics; State policy on religion; State secularism; the Vatican and global politics; theocracy and global democracy; and transnational religious organisations. 200 word abstracts by 1 April 2019 to Conference LoC: [tofac2019@gmail.com](mailto:tofac2019@gmail.com) and Dr Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso: [tofac2019@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:tofac2019@babcock.edu.ng)

**'Recovering, Digitizing and Practicalizing Africa's Indigenous Knowledge' First International Conference, African Studies Research Centre, Kisii University, Kenya, 15–20 July 2019.** The goal of this conference is in accordance with the objective of the emerging African Studies Research Centre at Kisii University to provide, fieldwork-based documentation of those traditional ways of knowing and doing things across nations of Africa spanning different institutions as well as give theoretical account of the same. The intent is to bring together scholars and practitioners alike to make sense of indigenous ways of knowing and of doing things across the continent, and to analyse persistent issues in a way that would liaise with science to proffer viable solutions that in turn would inform practice.

The ways of life on the continent are not static, the various cultures of African peoples continue resiliently in responding to those persistent questions of life and newer ones. It therefore does become necessary to harness the information that generations have produced over the lifespan of a community and on which they have relied to sustain their people and meet their needs.

The organisers invite submission of abstracts for impactful and action-oriented oral and poster conversations that would lead to building a functional bridge that links the past with the future, that connects the traditional to the global, and that affords the transitioning of the analogue to the digital. The conference would like to explore ways to harness and conserve existing information for the creation of new solutions while assuring the integrity of the underlying socio-cultural heritages. The organisers invite papers, seminars, and workshops within the general scope of the conference with the following four subthemes: language and gesture studies; cultural, indigenous and heritage studies (arts, philosophy, orature and musicology); political and economic studies (political, economic and social institutions); and agro-science, water resources, health and technology (environment, health and technology). Abstracts up to 500 words by 15 March 2019 to Dr Nyakundi Nyamboga: [aa@kisiiuniversity.ac.ke](mailto:aa@kisiiuniversity.ac.ke)

**'Comparing the Copperbelt: Society, Ecology and Culture in Central Africa's Mining Communities', University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, 23–24 July 2019.** 'Comparing the Copperbelt' is an ERC-funded research project, running at the University of Oxford from 2016-2020. The project aims to examine the Copperbelt (in both Zambia and the DR Congo) as a single region divided by a (post-)colonial border, across which flowed minerals, people and ideas. It analyses how academic knowledge production (for example, g. by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute and CEPsi) shaped understanding of Copperbelt societies and it seeks ways to explore Copperbelt political culture and popular perceptions from a historical perspective.



This workshop, building on a successful event held in Zambia in July 2018, aims to bring together researchers on and in the Copperbelt region to share ideas on social, environmental and cultural history. Research papers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, approaches and regional focuses are welcomed. The workshop seeks to bring together academics, cultural practitioners and social movements to discuss the region's shared histories. Topics to be explored include, but are not limited to the history or contemporary environmental situation on the Zambian and/or Congolese copperbelts; popular perceptions and articulations of social change e.g. through urban spirituality, cultural expression or social activism; processes of knowledge production and their interactions with historical change, for example, the interaction between academic research and civil society; the relationship between mining, political culture and social history, for example through gender, generation, class and ethnic relations; and the relationship between present-day dynamics on the Copperbelt and historical change.

As well as enabling ERC project researchers to share their research insights, this workshop will enable participants to learn from other approaches and research experiences in order to advance the study of the Copperbelt region. We particularly welcome submissions from Zambian and Congolese researchers: project funding has been allocated to support the participation of local researchers, including bringing Zambian researchers to Lubumbashi. As well as academic presentations, this workshop aims to include cultural events related to the history of the region. The conference will take place in French: translations of English presentations into French will be available. 300 word abstracts in English or French by 15 March 2019 to Claire Phillips: [copperbelt@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:copperbelt@history.ox.ac.uk)

**'Us and Them: Diasporas for Others in the Indian Ocean' conference, Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien – ZIRS), Martin-Luther University, Halle (Saale), Germany, 16–17 September 2019.** The Indian Ocean – a web of political, economic and social connections that encompasses the shores of South Asia and South-East Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa and Australia – has constituted a world system for at least two millennia. The networks linking the shores of the ocean have facilitated a constant if sometimes irregular movement of peoples, and led to the establishment of diasporic communities across the region. Some of these diasporas have great temporal depth: the Hadramis, for example, who have been present in eastern Africa for centuries, if not millennia; the Gujaratis, who are said to have been responsible for the Islamisation of the Malay archipelago; or the Chinese, who in centuries past appear to have settled in places as far afield as the Persian Gulf and eastern Africa as well as in southeast Asia.

In the nineteenth century, with the expansion of the European colonial empires in the Indian Ocean, there were renewed movements. Some drew upon on pre-

existing diasporic relationships to travel while others constituted new diasporas. Many of these diasporans have continued to maintain relationships across the ocean, both with each other and with the homeland. These relationships are often instrumental in framing contemporary practices, constituting individual and group identities, and shaping social, economic and political strategies, providing cohesion within and between different localisations of the diaspora. Diasporas that maintain a diaspora-wide cohesiveness in this way may be characterised as “diaspora for others”: diasporas that do not simply maintain bilateral relationships with the homeland, but who also maintain relationships with other localisations of the diaspora, providing for a holistic sense of diasporic community.

This conference calls for papers that consider the contemporary character of Indian Ocean diasporas and their members, looking at diasporans’ relationships with others in the places in which they live, with other members of the diaspora elsewhere, and with the homeland. While the organisers are primarily concerned with diasporas that conserve a sense of diasporic identity, contributions that consider denials of identity, however these may be expressed, are also welcome.

Participants may like to consider some of the following questions: why and how do diasporic communities construct and maintain a sense of identity as a distinct community, or is this identity imposed upon them or both?; how do diasporans manage this diasporic identity, regardless of its provenance, how does it serve them, or disserve them?; can people escape from diasporas?; how do collective memories and knowledge of the history of a diaspora shape the worldview of its members and guide their practices?; how do diasporans draw upon historically constituted relationships and networks across the ocean in their contemporary activities; what do diasporans share with one another, with their neighbours (who may themselves be diasporic), and with people from the homeland, and how do these shared beliefs and practices shape practice; how do different diasporic practices articulate with expressions of a cohesive diasporic identity: who is us and who is them, and when; and can diasporas be attributed a single diasporic identity, or are there different diasporic identities? For example, what do Hadramis from Singapore share with Hadramis from Zanzibar, if anything? And if nothing, what is a Hadrami?

Participants may wish consider the utility of concepts such as hybridisation and creolisation, belonging and difference, and problematise the concept of identity (in its various definitions). Meals and accommodation will be provided for conference participants and some assistance with travel costs may be available. 250 word abstracts by 31 January 2019 to Iain Walker: [iain.walker@zirs.uni-halle.de](mailto:iain.walker@zirs.uni-halle.de)

## ...Conferences Past

### Report on Writing Workshops in Benguela and Luanda

The ASAUK has recently funded two writing workshops in Angola, as part of the British Academy funding for targeted workshops in Africa to promote the publication of work by authors based in the Global South in international journals.

The workshops were led by Dr Toby Green (King's College, London), Honorary Treasurer of ASAUK, who had previously led workshops in Sierra Leone and The Gambia, and was able to draw on that experience in running the first workshops operated by the ASAUK that were held in Portuguese. They took place as part of a broader European Union-funded Erasmus + project, UDI-Africa, which brings together four African universities (two in Angola and two in Mozambique) and four European universities (one of which is King's College, London) to develop new partnership and reciprocal twinning arrangements. As part of the UDI-A project, King's co-organised an international conference at the Universidade Agostinho Neto (UAN) in Luanda from 30th October–1st November 2018, and this coincided with the writing workshops.

The two workshops took place at the Universidade Katyavala Bwila (UKB), in Benguela (29th October 2018), for whom the UKB project lead was Professor Ermelinda Cardoso, Vice-rector for International Co-operation at UKB; and at UAN in Luanda from 30th October–1st November, for whom the UAN project lead was Sabino de Nascimento, of the Department for International Co-operation.

The editors and journals represented in the workshops spanned the Portuguese-speaking world and beyond, and included: from Brazil, *Tempo* (Dr Alexander Gebara, of the Universidade Federal Fluminense); from Guinea-Bissau, *Soronda* (Dr Carlos Cardoso, of the Centro de Estudos Sociais Amílcar Cabral); from Portugal, *Cadernos de Estudos Africanos* (Dr José Lingna Nafafé of the University of Bristol, who sits on the advisory board of this journal); from the USA, *Ethnohistory* (Professor Tatiana Seijas, of Rutgers University); and also *African Economic History*, represented by Dr Toby Green, who is one of its editors.

At the UKB workshop participants were involved in a series of discussions on the development of journal articles and abstracts, on how to develop research proposals and funding streams, on the engagement with editors and peer reviews, and on the way in which publication can impact a home institution and its pedagogy. 55 lecturers and professors attended the workshop, and were afterwards able to discuss aspects of their research and draft articles with the editors; some were also able to continue this discussion at the UAN workshop, to which some of the Benguela participants thence proceeded.

At the UAN workshop, participants were drawn from both institutions, as well as from the 2 Mozambican institutions involved in the UDI-Africa project, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane from Maputo, and Universidade Lúrio, from Nampula in the north of Mozambique. Participants were able to present their research over the course of the three days of the workshop, and also to participate in sessions with journal editors who attended the conference. The journals represented in Benguela were added to by the presence of the *Leadership and Development* journal run by the African Leadership Centre at King's College London, and represented by Dr Ekaette Ikpe, and by Health journals run by the University of Maastricht and represented by Dr Elena Ambrosino. Additional themes discussed in the plenary sessions involved steps needed to establish a new academic journal, and streams of funding available for Africa-based scholars to develop research projects. The workshop concluded with subject-specific focus groups involving interactions with editors as to how to take the findings of the week forward on a case-by-case basis.

Over the course of a very intensive week, therefore, scholars from Angola and Mozambique and journal editors engaged in a fruitful discussion on various aspects of the writing process. There was a focus on developing Africa-based journals and how to maximise their global impact, but also on how to ensure that the voices of Africa-based scholars reach a wider audience. After the workshops were concluded, presentations which showcased funding opportunities were circulated, along with sample successful funding applications. It is hoped that a follow-up workshop will be hosted in Mozambique next year, where the seeds sewn in Benguela and Maputo will begin to have flowered.

Dr Toby Green, King's College, London

### **Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities**

Christian Andreas (2017), 'The Background to, and Impact and Management of, the Epizootics of Lung sickness and African Horsesickness in the Cape Colony, c.1853-7' D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart. [Winner of the Development Family Annual Book Prize].

Festus Atribawuni Asaaga (2018), 'Land Rights, Tenure Security and Sustainable Land Use in Rural Ghana', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Yadvinder Malhi and Dr Mark Hirons.

Eleanor Beever (2018), 'The Yira Cold War: Secessionism, Authority and Imagined Futures in the Uganda/Congo Borderlands', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Pratten.

Joyce Ampofoa Dartey (2018), 'Investigating Ancient Human Occupation at Zoboku, A Koma Site in Northern Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of East Anglia. Supervisors: Professor Anne Claire Haour and Professor John Mack; <https://ueaeprints.uea.ac.uk/66871/>

Samuel Derbyshire (2018), 'Trade, Development and Resilience: An Archaeology of Contemporary Livelihoods in Turkana, Northern Kenya', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Peter Mitchell and Dr Dan Hicks.

Meredith Leah Fendt-Newlin (2018), 'Enhancing Mental Health Practice in Sierra Leone: A Social Intervention Development Study', Ph.D thesis, University of York. Supervisors: Professor Martin Webber and Dr Carolyn Snell; <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/20671/>

Estrella Sendra Fernandez (2018), 'Two-tier Festivals in Senegal between the Local and the International: A Case Study of the Festival International de Folklore et de Percussion in Louga (Senegal)', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Lindiwe Dovey.

Nick Friedman (2017), 'Judges, Social Rules and the Constitution: An Empirical Enquiry into the Foundations of South African Law', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Denis Galligan.

Lyndsey Marie Hoh (2018), 'The Sound of Metal: Amateur Brass Bands in Southern Benin', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Jason Stanyek and Dr David Pratten.

Daniel John Ingram (2018), 'Quantifying the Exploitation of Terrestrial Wildlife in Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex.

Katharina Adewoyin Oke (2018), 'The Politics of the Public Sphere: English-language and Yoruba-language Print Culture in Colonial Lagos, 1880s-1940s', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Pratten.

George M. Osei (2018), 'An Examination of Policy and Practice in Ghanaian Education, With Special Reference to the Junior Secondary School Reform', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Johnson.

Daniel Alan Ostendorff (2018), 'Militancy, Moderation and Mau Mau: A Reconsideration of Koinange wa Mbiyu and Peter Mbiyu Koinange', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford, Supervisor: Dr Sloan Mahone.

Giovanni Paolo Pasquali (2018), 'When Value Chains Go South: Governance and Upgrading of the Kenyan Leather Sector', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Diego Sanchez-Ancochea and Professor Xiaolan Fu.

Stephanie Postar (2018), 'Forest Histories and Nuclear Futures: Mapping Resources, Value, and Change in Southern Tanzania', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Ramon Sarro.

Jason Robinson, D. Phil, University of Oxford (2016), 'On the Edge of History: Small Political Parties and Groupings in South Africa's Transition, 1990-1997', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Andrea Ruediger (2018), 'Seed Security, Agrobiodiversity and Production Risk in Smallholder Agriculture in Eastern Ethiopia: Three Essays', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Douglas Gollin and Professor Stefan Dercon.

Trevor H. G. Smith (2018), 'Christian Theology Emerging from the Akan Single-Tiered Unitive Perspective on Reality', Ph.D thesis, Middlesex University and Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Supervisor: Reverend Professor J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu; <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/24205/>

Robin Steedman (2017), 'Nairobi-based Female Filmmakers and the "Creative Hustle": Gender and Film Production between the Local and the Transnational', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Lindiwe Dovey.

Rachel Tate (2018), 'The Maputo Development Corridor: Emancipation for Whom?', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: James Hamill and Dr Tara McCormack; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/42666>

Hemant Gangaprasad Tripathi (2018), 'Biodiversity of the African Savanna Woodlands: How Does it Change with Land Use?', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Casey Ryan, Dr Emily Woollen and Professor Patrick Meir; <http://hdl.handle.net/1842/28965>

Leila Ullrich (2017), 'Schizophrenic Justice: Exploring "Justice for Victims" at the International Criminal Court (ICC)', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Carolyn Hoyle. [This is substantially about Kenya and Uganda.]

Yu Xiang (2018), 'Ideological Sinicization of China Central Television in Africa: A Reception Analysis of African Audiences', Ph.D thesis, University of Westminster. Supervisors: Professor Daya Thussu and Professor Christian Fuchs; <http://westminsterresearch.wmin.ac.uk/21055/>

Sam Wilkins (2018), 'The Dominant Party System in Uganda: Subnational Competition and Authoritarian Survival in the 2016 elections', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Ricardo Soares de Oliveira.

Thomas Yeboah (2018), 'Young People and Migration in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Peter Nolan; <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/275446>

## Recent Publications

Jonathan Bashi (2018), *Regional Developmentalism Through International Law: Establishing an African Economic Community*. Routledge, 252pp, 978-1138060197, £105 hardcover; 1138060194, £37 Kindle.

William Beinart, Peter Delius and Michelle Hay (2017), *Rights to Land: A Guide to Tenure Upgrading and Restitution in South Africa*. Jacana Media, 191pp, 978-1928232483, £8.50.

Tsehai Berhane-Selassie (2018), *Ethiopian Warriorhood: Defence, Land and Society, 1800-1941*. James Currey, 312pp, 978-1847011916, £57 hardback, £23.99 Kindle.

Vivian Bickford-Smith and Bill Nasson (2018), *Illuminating Lives: Biographies of Fascinating People from South African History*. Zebra Press, 256pp, 978-1776092642, £13.99.

S. Elizabeth Bird and Rosina Umelo (2018), *Surviving Biafra: A Nigerwife's Story*. Hurst, 256pp, 9781849049580, £20.

Peter Brett (2018), *Human Rights and the Judicialisation of African Politics*. Routledge, 250pp, 9781138289239, £92 hardback, £35.99 eBook.

Stephen Chan (2018), *Mugabe: A Life of Power and Violence*. I.B. Tauris, 288pp, 9781788314282, £12.99.

Fantu Cheru, Christopher Cramer and Arkebe Oqubay (eds) (2019), *The Oxford Handbook of the Ethiopian Economy*. Oxford University Press, 1,008pp, 9780198814986, £110.

Phil Clark (2018), *Distant Justice: The Impact of the International Criminal Court on African Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 392pp, 9781108576260, £75 hardcover, £24.99 paperback.

Haggai Erlich (2018), *Haile Selassie: His Rise, His Fall*. Rienner, 185pp, 978-1-626370754-7, £39.95.

Bill Freund (2018), *Twentieth-Century South Africa: A Developmental History*. Cambridge University Press, 288pp, 9781108446150, £21.99.

Cajetan Iheka and Jack Taylor (eds) (2018), *African Migration Narratives: Politics, Race, and Space*. University of Rochester Press, 320pp, 978-1580469340, £95.

Malcolm Jack (2018), *To the Fairest Cape: European Encounters in the Cape of Good Hope*. Bucknell University Press, 242pp, 978-1684480005, £20.50.

Jessica Johnson and George Hamandishe Karekwaivanane (eds) (2018), *Pursuing Justice in Africa: Competing Imaginaries and Contested Practices*. Ohio University Press: Cambridge Centre of African Studies Series, 342pp, 978-0821423356, £60.

Paul Joseph (2018), *Slumboy from the Golden City*. Merlin Press, 259pp, 9780850367508, £15.99.

Tony Karbo and Charles Murithi (2017), *The African Union: Autocracy, Diplomacy and Peacebuilding in Africa*. I.B. Tauris, 368pp, 97817883115602, £17.99.

Michael Keating and Matt Waldman (eds) (2018), *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflict and Al-Shabaab*. Hurst, 480pp, 9781787380189, £25.

Dior Konaté (2018), *Prison Architecture and Punishment in Colonial Senegal*. Lexington Books, 358pp, 978-1-4985-6014-6, £75 hardback.

Gary Kynoch (2018), *Township Violence and the End of Apartheid: War on the Reef*. James Currey, 240pp, 978-1-84701-212-8, £60 hardcover, £23.99 Kindle.

Ebenezer Obadare (2018), *Pentecostal Republic: Religion and the Struggle for State Power in Nigeria*. Zed Books, 252pp, 978-1786992383, £16.99.

Peter Martell (2018), *First Raise a Flag: How South Sudan Won the Longest War but Lost the Peace*. Hurst, 320pp, 9781849049597, £25.

Terri Ochiagha (2018), *A Short History of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart*. Ohio University Press: Ohio Short Histories of Africa, 146pp, 978-0821423486, £10.99.

Elisha P. Renne (2018), *Veils, Turbans, and Islamic Reform in Northern Nigeria*. Indiana University Press, 256pp, 978-0253036551, £24.99.

Elizabeth Schmidt (2018), *Foreign Intervention in Africa after the Cold War: Sovereignty, Responsibility, and the War on Terror*. Ohio University Press, 472pp, 9780896803213, £28.99.

Jason Sumich (2018), *The Middle Class in Mozambique: The State and the Politics of Transformation in Southern Africa*. Cambridge University Press, 190pp, 978-1108472883, £75.

**Call for Papers: Relations, Transfers and Exchanges between Africa and East Germany during the Cold War.** The last few decades have witnessed a renewed interest in South-East relations of various kinds. Scholars have sought to trace the trans-continental nature of encounters between African and Eastern European states in an era of intense system competition and high hopes for development. Thinking about these trans- and intercontinental entanglements within a global history framework, this edited volume seeks to contribute to the discussions



about the nature of global socialism by highlighting connections between various African nations and East Germany during the Cold War.

East German institutions such as the trade union federation, ministries, the solidarity committee, and friendship brigades sought to strengthen relations with the emerging African countries by sending lecturers, experts, political and economic advisers, sports coaches, and development workers abroad. From the late 1950s onwards – at a time when East Germany still had to fight for its international recognition – the majority of African countries entered the international stage as politically independent nations. The newly established governments requested scholarships and material aid for their massive task of expanding the postcolonial economy and addressing labour shortages in the bureaucracy, business, health and educational sectors.

At the same time, African liberation movements that fought white minority regimes in Southern Africa forged relations with East Germany and partly relied on its material support and military training. When self-proclaimed Marxist regimes came into power in Ethiopia and in the ex-colonies of Portugal in the mid-1970s, the relations between Africa and East Germany intensified in a number of ways: (barter) trade agreements multiplied, as did plans over agricultural production and industrial projects in African countries. Africa took centre stage in the world revolution towards socialism, as the Soviet Union and Cuba stepped up their personal, material, and ideological engagement on the African continent, including troops and military advisers. In the 1980s, economic crisis dominated on many fronts. International financial actors by and by captured African governments' material and monetary transfers to the socialist world system which subsequently gradually ceased – as did the socialist bloc itself shortly thereafter.

The editors seek to compile an open-access edited volume that shows the manifold and reciprocal relations and their legacies between African and East German actors like governments, institutions, contract workers, students, traders, trade unionists, freedom fighters, and many more. The editors welcome contributions that emphasize African influences on East German institutions, governments, ideology, economy, and the host society at large, as well as studies that engage the East German sojourns in various African nations. While our focus remains on African and East German relations, the editors also welcome contributions that discuss African relations with other socialist countries by way of comparison. 300-500 word proposals and short biodata by 25 January 2019 to Immanuel R. Harisch: [africa.and.eastgermany@gmail.com](mailto:africa.and.eastgermany@gmail.com)

## **News**

**Leventis Post-doctoral Fellowship for Young Nigerian Academics, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2019–20.** The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. Applicants are invited to apply to spend three months as visitors of the Centre of African Studies at the in order to pursue their research in libraries and archives and to participate in the intellectual life of the Centre. The scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a doctoral thesis into publishable form.

The most recent Leventis Post-Doctoral Fellow was Mustapha Adebayo Bello, Department of Religions and Peace Studies, Lagos State University, Lagos Nigeria. His research focused on 'Gendering Spiritual Husbandry: Female Church Overseers and Female Muslim Deputies and Alfas in Yorubaland.'

To be considered for the fellowship, applicants should send the following documents by 31st March 2019 to: [ab17@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ab17@soas.ac.uk) – a complete curriculum vitae of 2 pages; a statement of current research interests of up to 1,000 words, specifying the aims to be achieved during the research period in London; and one academic reference letter supporting the application (sent directly from the email account of the referee to [ab17@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ab17@soas.ac.uk)).

### **Ken Barlow**

After ten years of managing the Africa list at Zed Books, Ken Barlow has left his position as Editorial Director at Zed Books to go freelance. He is currently doing work for the Nordic Africa Institute, the IIED, and the Africa Leadership Centre at KCL, and has been asked to serve on the board of trustees for the International African Institute, so will remain heavily involved in the world of African Studies. Further details about his freelance work, including author consultancy, can be found at: [www.kenbarloweditorial.com](http://www.kenbarloweditorial.com).

## **Obituary**

### **Anthony Hamilton Millard Kirk-Greene, MBE, CMG**

Anthony Kirk-Greene (born 16th May 1925), died aged 93 on 8th July 2018. Above all, Tony was an enormously hardworking and committed historian of Africa and of the colonial era. As a young man he served in the army in India, during and immediately after the war, and then followed a successful career in the Colonial Service in Nigeria (1950-60). In the mid-1950s, he set up an innovative and intensive course at the newly-established Institute of Administration in Zaria to train Nigerian civil servants. This developed into Ahmadu Bello University where he taught as a founding member of staff (1961-

65). Tony had a lengthy and distinctive experience in Africa that few British-based Africanists now replicate. He learnt Hausa and he saw colonial rule from the inside in an area where it was relatively short-lived and constrained.

Tony was in some respects a man of his time and yet in important ways transcended this. He is best-known for his extraordinary knowledge and prolific writing on the British colonial service. Yet his earlier work especially demonstrated his ethnographic interests (*Adamawa Past and Present*, 1958); his expertise in Hausa language and culture (*A Modern Hausa Reader*, 1967); and his concern to explain the complexities of the Nigerian Civil War and Nigerian politics. In addition to papers he produced an invaluable sourcebook on *Crisis and Conflict in Nigeria* (1971) and an introduction to *Nigeria since 1970* (1981). His work on the colonial service has provided a rich resource for scholars in many fields of African history and, despite his immersion, he could be sharply critical of individuals and gently sceptical about its structures. He saw himself as playing a key role in education for decolonisation. .

Tony came to St Antony's College, University of Oxford, in 1967 on a five-year fellowship and retired there as a Senior Research Fellow in 1992. In fact, he taught and supervised enthusiastically throughout his appointment: undergraduates on the African papers for PPE and Modern History; and postgraduates doing topics in African and Commonwealth history. The latter included Olufemi Vaughan, now a leading Africanist in the United States, who edited, with Terence Ranger, a retirement festschrift on *Legitimacy and the State in Twentieth Century Africa* (1993). Tony also directed the Foreign Service Programme run at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in Oxford.

Tony understood and accommodated the increasingly Africanist perspectives in British and American African Studies. He built and nurtured a strong network of colleagues in the United States as well as Britain and Africa. Throughout his career, he was a wonderful resource for those studying West Africa and hosted a wide range of visitors from Nigeria, till well after retirement, who showed him great affection and respect. He helped to make St Antony's a key centre for the study of Africa within the University. He was awarded an MBE in 1963 for his services in Nigeria and a CMG in 2001 for 'services to the history of Africa'.

One of Tony's major legacies to the University was his assiduous work on the Colonial Records Project at Rhodes House and on its successor, the Development Records Project, as Director 1980-84. He wrote countless letters, organised workshops and meetings and succeeded in regenerating this unparalleled archive with a large number of collections, particularly relating to agriculture, education and medicine. As just one small example of this legacy, papers were secured on education in colonial Nigeria including material from British teachers who worked at Umuahia College, the leading high school in south-eastern Nigeria. These and other materials in Oxford provided a rich resource for a

recent prize-winning study by Terri Ochiaga about Chinua Achebe and friends – students at the school – and the making of Nigeria’s first generation of literary giants.

When I came to the College in 1997, Tony, although retired, was a supportive member of the weekly African Studies seminar and the programme more generally. He is remembered for helping to make this a congenial intellectual and social meeting place and he made an effort to get to know a new generation of staff and students studying Africa. He and his wife Helen played a broader role in the Oxford Newcomers’ Club and provided support for families of graduates and new staff. He was particularly generous in supporting a junior research fellowship, travel grants for students to research in African countries, as well as a prize for dissertations on Africa.

When we established a full African Studies Centre in the university for the first time (2002), with continuing close links to the College, and were eventually able to secure a building, we named a Kirk-Greene seminar room in recognition of Tony’s sustained support for African Studies. He contributed important building blocks. During his time at the College, there were two or three Fellows specialising in Africa. There are now 8 or 9 with such expertise. Raufu Mustapha – sadly recently deceased – David Pratten and Wale Adebaniwi have ensured that Nigeria specifically remains an important focus of attention at St Antony’s. African Studies is thriving at Oxford across many disciplines. Tony’s excellent library has been sent to Kano in Nigeria.

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#### **Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the April 2019 *Newsletter* by 15 March 2019 to Dr Simon Heap, c/o Academic Office, Buckley 1.08, Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BP or [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

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